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National reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development

Report of the Secretary-General

1. Subsequent to the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, activities related to national reporting have focused on the following elements: (a) facilitating national reporting to the eighth session of the Commission; (b) preparation of guidelines for the eighth session of the Commission; (c) preparation of an analytical report entitled "Sustainable agriculture and rural development: trends in national implementation", based on national reports, as well as preparation of background documents; (d) early preparations to facilitate reporting to the Commission at its ninth session; (e) preparation of country profiles for the 10-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21 to be held in 2002; (f) updating and maintenance of the United Nations system-wide sustainable development web site.

I. National reporting to the Commission at its eighth session

2. The Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (General Assembly resolution S-19/2, annex) states, in paragraph 115, that national reports on the implementation of Agenda 21 have proved to be a valuable means of sharing information at the international and regional levels and, even more important, of providing a focus for the coordination of issues related to sustainable development at the national level within individual countries; accordingly, in paragraph 133 (b), the Programme states that national reporting should continue through voluntary national communications or reports.

3. Consistent with the agenda established in the Commission's multi-year programme of work, guidelines for national reporting were prepared by the Secretariat, in consultation with task managers, on the following issues: (a) integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources; (b) sustainable agriculture and rural development; (c) forest; (d) finance; and (e) trade. At the end of May 1999, the guidelines were sent simultaneously in English, French and Spanish, by mail and where possible by electronic mail, to the respective permanent representatives to the United Nations in New York and the focal points of all countries. The deadline requested was 31 August 1999.

4. By mid-March 2000, reports had been received from the following 53 countries: Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Norway, Pacific Islands, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Republic of

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Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States and Uzbekistan.

II. Analytical report on sustainable agriculture and rural development: trends in national implementation

5. In its decisions 7/5 of April 1999 and 6/5 of April 1998, the Commission stressed the importance of continuing to take full advantage of the information provided by Governments to the Commission, on a voluntary basis, especially in view of the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21, to take place in 2002. The Commission emphasized the need to draw more fully on the information contained in those national reports or relevant information submitted to the Commission, and requested the Secretariat to process and compile, on a sectoral basis, the information provided by Governments in accordance with the issues contained in its multi-year programme of work.

6. Consequently, the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Sustainable agriculture and rural development: trends in national implementation" (E/CN.17/2000/5) examines the progress made towards sustainable agriculture and rural development based on the information that Governments provided in their national reports to the Commission in 1997 and by mid-January 2000. The report analyses a total of 133 national reports.

7. Consistent with Agenda 21 programme areas on sustainable agriculture and rural development, the report focuses on major policy trends, programmes and activities in these areas by region and subregion.

III. National reporting to the Commission at its ninth session

8. The Secretariat is in the process of preparing guidelines for the ninth session of the Commission. These guidelines, which will refer to reporting on atmosphere/energy (sectoral theme), information for decision-making and participation and international cooperation for an enabling environment (cross-sectoral theme), and energy/transport (economic sector/major group), should be transmitted to Governments by the end of May 2000 in English, French and Spanish.

9. The deadline requested for submitting national reports to the Secretariat will be September 2000. Should national information be available within that time-frame, it will have a greater impact on the inter-sessional preparations for the ninth session of the Commission as well as on the respective analytical report of the Secretary-General.

IV. Preparations of national reporting for the 10-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21 to be held in 2002

10. As mandated in Commission decision 7/5, paragraph 2 (f), the Secretariat is collecting inputs from member States on how to improve the guidelines for the elaboration of national reports after 2002. A report to this effect will be submitted to the Commission in 2001, as part of the preparations for the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21.

11. As mandated in Commission decision 7/5, paragraph 2 (g), the Secretariat is in the process of preparing country profiles to complement those presented during the five-year review held by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session in 1997, for submission to the General Assembly for the comprehensive review of the implementation of Agenda 21 to be held in the year 2002.

12. Tables identifying national reports not yet submitted as well as those that have been submitted to the Commission since 1994 are contained in the annex.

V. United Nations system-wide sustainable development web site

13. As reported at earlier sessions, the United Nations system-wide sustainable development web site (at http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/) contains the information provided by Governments in their national reports to the Commission, on a country-by-country and issue-by-issue basis. The Secretariat continues to update the web site with new information as Governments submit it.

Annex

Preparation of country profiles for the 10-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21 to be held in 2002

1. The National Information Analysis Unit is in the process of preparing country profiles for 2002 to complement those presented during the five-year review of the implementation of Agenda 21 held by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, in 1997.

2. By 2001, draft country profiles will be sent to all reporting countries for their review. Upon their review, the Unit will proceed to finalize and publish the 2002 country profiles series.

3. As reported at previous sessions of the Commission, the Secretariat continues to update the web site with new information as Governments submit it.

4. For queries to the National Information Analysis Unit, please telephone:

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National reports not yet submitted in preparation for the 10-year review in 2002

1. Afghanistan
2. Andorra
3. Angola
4. Azerbaijan
5. Belize
6. Bhutan
7. Bosnia and Herzegovina
8. Burkina Faso
9. Burundi
10. Cambodia
11. Cape Verde
12. Central African Republic
13. Chad
14. Comoros
15. Congo
16. Cyprus
17. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
18. Democratic Republic of the Congo
19. Djibouti
20. Dominica
21. Equatorial Guinea
22. Eritrea
23. Ethiopia
24. Gabon
25. Grenada
26. Guatemala
27. Guinea
28. Jordan
29. Kenya
30. Kiribati
31. Kuwait
32. Kyrgyzstan
33. Lao People's Democratic Republic
34. Latvia
35. Lesotho
36. Liberia
37. Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
38. Liechtenstein
39. Mali
40. Malta
41. Marshall Islands
42. Mauritania
43. Micronesia
44. Mozambique
45. Namibia
46. Nauru
47. Oman
48. Palau
49. Papua New Guinea
50. Peru
51. Rwanda
52. Saint Kitts and Nevis
53. Saint Lucia
54. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
55. Samoa
56. San Marino
57. Seychelles
58. Sierra Leone
59. Solomon Islands
60. Somalia
61. Sudan
62. Tajikistan
63. Togo
64. Tonga
65. Trinidad and Tobago
66. Turkmenistan
67. United Arab Emirates
68. Vanuatu
69. Yemen
70. Zambia

National reports submitted since 1994 to the Commission on Sustainable Development for which country profiles will be prepared for 2002 (national information is available at the web site; see main report, para. 11)

1. Albania
2. Algeria
3. Antigua and Barbuda
4. Argentina
5. Armenia
6. Australia
7. Austria
8. Bahamas
9. Bahrain
10. Bangladesh
11. Barbados
12. Belarus
13. Belgium
14. Benin
15. Bolivia
16. Botswana
17. Brazil
18. Brunei Darussalam
19. Bulgaria
20. Cameroon
21. Canada
22. Chile
23. China
24. Colombia
25. Costa Rica
26. Côte d'Ivoire
27. Croatia
28. Cuba
29. Czech Republic
30. Denmark
31. Dominican Republic
32. Ecuador
33. Egypt
34. El Salvador
35. Estonia
36. Fiji
37. Finland
38. France
39. Gambia
40. Georgia
41. Germany
42. Ghana
43. Greece
44. Guinea-Bissau
45. Guyana
46. Haiti
47. Honduras
48. Hungary
49. Iceland
50. India
51. Indonesia
52. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
53. Iraq
54. Ireland
55. Israel
56. Italy
57. Jamaica
58. Japan
59. Kazakhstan
60. Lebanon
61. Lithuania
62. Luxembourg
63. Madagascar
64. Malawi
65. Malaysia
66. Maldives
67. Mauritius
68. Mexico
69. Monaco
70. Mongolia
71. Morocco
72. Myanmar
73. Nepal
74. Netherlands
75. New Zealand
76. Nicaragua
77. Niger
78. Nigeria
79. Norway
80. Pakistan
81. Panama
82. Paraguay
83. Philippines
84. Poland
85. Portugal
86. Qatar
87. Republic of Korea
88. Republic of Moldova
89. Romania
90. Russian Federation
91. Sao Tome and Principe
92. Saudi Arabia
93. Senegal
94. Singapore
95. Slovakia
96. Slovenia
97. South Africa
98. Spain
99. Sri Lanka
100. Suriname
101. Swaziland
102. Sweden
103. Switzerland
104. Syrian Arab Republic
105. Thailand
106. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
107. Tunisia
108. Turkey
109. Uganda
110. Ukraine
111. United Kingdom
112. United Republic of Tanzania
113. United States of America
114. Uruguay
115. Uzbekistan
116. Venezuela
117. Viet Nam
118. Yugoslavia
119. Zimbabwe